

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 AID-05

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DCRUSAARMCOM ROCK ISLAND IL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: TDP FOR 105MM AMMO

REF: SECDEF 171437Z OCT 1975

1. WE FIND DECISION TO DENY AFP REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION TDP FOR 105 MM AMMO STRIKINGLY AT VARIANCE WITH TWO BASIC U.S. POLICIES THIS MISSION HAS BEEN PROMOTING IN PHILIPPINES FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

2. ONE SUCH POLICY HAS BEEN TO AVOID TO EXTENT POSSIBLE ANY APPEARANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN PHILIPPINE EFFORTS TO SUBDUE MUSLIM INSURGENCY IN THE SOUTH. AS IS WELL KNOWN, MOST OF AFP'S 105 MM AMMO IS CONSUMED IN ONGOING MILITARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST MUSLIMS AND THERE IS NO SIGN OF LET UP INFIGHTING. TO INHIBIT DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CAPACITY TO PRODUCE 105MM AMMO AND IN EFFECT TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED DEPENDENCE ON U.S. FOR SUPPLY OF THIS AMMUNITION WORKS TOWARDS STRENGTHENING APPEARANCE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN GOP'S ANTI-MUSLIM REBEL EFFORT. THE SOONER THE US CAN GET OUT OF THE DIRECT
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SUPPLIER ROLE FOR AMMUNITION USED IN THE SOUTH, THE BETTER.

3. OTHER, MORE BASIC AND LONGER STANDING POLICY IS TO PROMOTE LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE IN MILITARY PRODUCTION. THAT POLICY LED TO AGREEMENTS TO ASSIST GOP IN ESTABLISHING M-16 PLANT AND U.62MM AMMO CAPABILITY. GOP'S REQUEST FOR TDP FOR 105MM AMMO FULLY IN LINE WITH POLICY AND RECENT PRACTICE AND DESIGNED TO MEET URGENT REQUIREMENTS IN SOUTH.

4. IN ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE 105MM AMMO SUPPLIES, IT WILL BE RECALLED, AFP SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ACQUIRE REPLACEMENTS FROM US SOURCES. AFP THEN TURNED TO ROC EXCESS STOCKS BUT USG BLOCKED THE SALE. RECENT GOP EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA WOULD TEND, AS IT HAD ON OTHER MILITARY HARDWARE ITEMS, TO ENCOURAGE GOP TO SEEK OTHER FOREIGN SOURCES OF SUPPLY IN ORDER TO LESSEN FRUSTRATING DEPENDENCE ON U.S. DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH A TREND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR BEST LONG-TERM INTERESTS.

5. GOP HAS ATTEMPTED ON ITS OWN TO MOVE INTO PRODUCTION OF SMALL ARMS AND MORTAR AMMUNITION TO LESSEN ITS DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL SOURCES. EFFORT TO PRODUCE 105MM AMMO WITHOUT TDP, SHOULD GOP UNDERTAKE IT, WOULD TAKE YEARS DUE TO LIMITED INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY, FUNDING CONSTRAINTS AND TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED SO FAR IN AMMUNITION PRODUCTION. IF US DOES NOT PROVIDE TECHNICAL HELP, AFP WILL PROBABLY TRY TO ACQUIRE IT FROM OTHER SOURCES. IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTERESTS AND CONSONANT WITH CURRENT POLICY TO RESPOND TO AFP REQUEST FOR TDP AND TO HELP SPEED AFT TOWARD COMPLETE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN AMMUNITION PRODUCTION.

4. RECOMMEND FURTHER REVIEW OF DECISION ANNOUNCED REFTTEL.
SULLIVAN

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